



## **U.S. Department of Justice**

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*Eastern District of Pennsylvania*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **U.S. ATTORNEY PAT MEEHAN ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION**

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Pat Meehan has announced his resignation effective July 15, 2008. Meehan plans to join a private law firm in the Philadelphia area. First Assistant U.S. Attorney Laurie Magid will take over as Acting U.S. Attorney.

Meehan was sworn in as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania on September 17, 2001. He immediately began bringing together federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to form a task force to protect the region against terrorism in the wake of 9/11. Meehan's success in building relationships extended beyond the office's anti-terrorism work. He reached out to county district attorneys, teamed with the mayors of Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown, Reading and Lancaster, and even crossed jurisdictional boundaries into York and Harrisburg, to unite our communities in a common defense against gang violence. With support from the county commissioners, this coalition jointly competed for federal grant money and was rewarded as one of only six sites in the nation to receive funding to initiate an anti-gang effort. The "Route 222 Anti-Gang Initiative" is currently the only joint, regional, anti-gang effort in the country.

Under Meehan's leadership, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Philadelphia became known as a national leader in prosecuting high-dollar, healthcare fraud cases. His prosecutors used the federal False Claims Act as an enforcement tool and recovered more than \$1.3 billion for federal health insurance programs through settlements with drug manufacturers and pharmacy benefit managers.

During his tenure, Meehan made protecting the district's most vulnerable citizens a top priority. His office was able to use federal fraud laws to go after nursing homes and assisted living facilities that allowed overcrowding, understaffing and poor training. In 2002, he started a predatory lending group, which has prosecuted dozens of unscrupulous lenders and more importantly, worked with a variety of community and legal agencies to help the victims get their money back.

Meehan gained national recognition for his prosecution of corrupt public officials in Philadelphia and the surrounding suburbs. The city's so-called "pay-to-play" political culture was fundamentally changed by the prosecutions and convictions of dozens of elected and appointed officials, including the former city treasurer, a city councilman, and influential political consultants. The new mayor of Philadelphia has since hired three of Meehan's former prosecutors to help lead an ethics reform effort.

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“It is difficult to fully express my feelings for this office and for the people who work here,” said Meehan. “I have often wished that every single citizen of this region could have the opportunity to spend the day here and see public service in action. For almost seven years, it has been my privilege to lead this dedicated group of men and women and to witness what can be accomplished by a simple desire to make life more liveable for those we serve.”

**Media note: The text of Meehan’s remarks are available on the U.S. Attorney’s Web site at [www.usdoj.gov/usao/pae](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/pae).**

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